# In-plane hexagonal antiferromagnet in the Cu-Mn-As system Cu<sub>0.82</sub>Mn<sub>1.18</sub>As

Manohar H. Karigerasi<sup>(0)</sup>, <sup>1</sup> Kisung Kang, <sup>1</sup> Arun Ramanathan<sup>(0)</sup>, <sup>1</sup> Danielle L. Gray<sup>(0)</sup>, <sup>2</sup> Matthias D. Frontzek<sup>(0)</sup>, <sup>3</sup> Huibo Cao, <sup>3</sup> André Schleife<sup>(0)</sup>, <sup>1,4</sup> and Daniel P. Shoemaker<sup>1,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Materials Science and Engineering and Materials Research Laboratory, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign,

Urbana, Illinois 61801, USA

<sup>2</sup>School of Chemical Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Illinois 61801, USA

<sup>3</sup>Neutron Scattering Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831, USA

<sup>4</sup>National Center for Supercomputing Applications, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Illinois 61801, USA

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We report the single-crystal growth and characterization of a hexagonal phase  $Cu_{0.82}Mn_{1.18}As$ , in the Cu-Mn-As system. This compound contains the same square-pyramidal MnAs<sub>5</sub> units as the tetragonal and orthorhombic polymorphs of CuMnAs. Calorimetry, magnetometry, and neutron diffraction measurements reveal antiferromagnetic ordering at 270 K. The magnetic structure consists of a triangular arrangement of spins in the *ab* plane. Hexagonal  $Cu_{0.82}Mn_{1.18}As$  shows resistivity that varies only weakly from 5 to 300 K, and is many times higher than tetragonal CuMnAs, indicative of a strongly scattering metal. First-principles calculations confirm the metallic band structure with a small density of states at the Fermi energy. The neutron-refined magnetic ground state is close to the computationally determined minimum energy configuration. This compound should serve as a clear control when disentangling the effects of current-driven Néel switching of metallic antiferromagnets since it exhibits in-plane spins but the magnetic ordering does not break degeneracy along the *a* and *b* directions, unlike tetragonal CuMnAs.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Recent demonstrations on the electrical switching of domains in semimetallic tetragonal CuMnAs have attracted considerable interest in the field of antiferromagnetic (AF) spintronics [1–4]. Thin films of tetragonal CuMnAs grown on GaP (001) substrates have a Néel temperature  $T_N$  of about 480 K [5,6]. These studies are complicated by the variable allowed stoichiometries of phases in the Cu-Mn-As system. Before any domain-switching studies were demonstrated, bulk tetragonal CuMnAs was shown to be stabilized by the addition of excess nominal Cu in solid-state reactions [7]. A large variation in the Néel temperature  $T_N$  from 507 to 320 K has been shown as Cu excess in Cu<sub>1+x</sub>Mn<sub>1-x</sub>As increases from x =0.02 to 1.4 [8], and a weak ferromagnetic transition around 300 K was reported around x = 0 [9]. On the Mn excess side, orthorhombic CuMn<sub>3</sub>As<sub>2</sub> is formed as a stable phase [7].

When Cu, Mn, and As are mixed stoichiometrically, CuMnAs crystallizes in an orthorhombic *Pnma* phase [10]. Orthorhombic CuMnAs is the first compound to have been proposed as a magnetically ordered Dirac semimetal [11] and has been discussed for the possibility of voltage-induced switching [12]. Initial characterization by Máca *et al.* showed  $T_N = 360$  K as judged by resistivity and differential thermal analysis [10]. This commensurate magnetic ordering and  $T_N$ in orthorhombic CuMnAs was confirmed by Emmanouilidou *et al.*, who also found that a slightly cation-deficient tetragonal sample Cu<sub>0.98</sub>Mn<sub>0.96</sub>As exhibits an incommensurate AF ordering at 320 K, followed by another AF reorientation around 230 K [13].

All known ternary phases in the Cu-Mn-As system have the transition metal (*M*) to As ratio of 2:1 and are either tetragonal or orthorhombic as shown in Fig. 1. The metallic nature of these compounds allows significant deviation from  $M_2$ As stoichiometry, as evidenced by the binary compounds MnAs (a ferromagnet with a reentrant FeP-to-NiAs-type transition) [14–16], Mn<sub>3</sub>As<sub>2</sub> (which has at least three polymorphs) [17–19], the seemingly metastable compounds Mn<sub>4</sub>As<sub>3</sub> and Mn<sub>5</sub>As<sub>4</sub> [18,20], and Mn<sub>3</sub>As [21]. Of these compounds, only MnAs and Mn<sub>2</sub>As have been investigated with neutron diffraction and transport measurements [22,23]. Further elaboration of compounds in this space is necessary to understand the potential for manipulating spins in these highly correlated phases.

### **II. METHODS**

Millimeter-sized crystals of hexagonal Cu<sub>0.82</sub>Mn<sub>1.18</sub>As were synthesized by mixing elemental powders Cu (99.9% metals basis), Mn (99.98% metals basis), and As (99.999% metals basis) in 0.82:1.18:1 molar ratio. The powders were vacuum sealed in quartz tubes and heated at 1 °C/min to 600 °C for 6 h, then ramped at 1 °C/min to 975 °C for 1 h. The tube was slow cooled at 1 °C/min to 900 °C and held for 1 h before furnace-cooling down to room temperature. The resulting product was a solid ingot. The ingot was crushed into smaller pieces to conduct single-crystal x-ray diffraction on a Bruker X8 Apex II diffractometer at 296 K and  $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å.

<sup>\*</sup>dpshoema@illinois.edu



FIG. 1. Hexagonal  $Cu_{0.82}Mn_{1.18}As$  has been marked with a star among the previously known phases in the Cu-Mn-As system. Compositions near CuMnAs are known to crystallize in both tetragonal and orthorhombic crystal systems.

Variable-temperature powder x-ray diffraction was performed using a nitrogen blower at beamline 11-BM of the Advanced Photon Source in Argonne National Laboratory ( $\lambda = 0.4128 \text{ Å}$ ) [24]. Variable-temperature neutron powder diffraction was conducted at the WAND<sup>2</sup> instrument at the High-Flux Isotope Reactor (HFIR) at Oak Ridge National Laboratory [25].

Magnetic structure determination was performed on a 2-mm crystal at the HB-3A four-circle diffractometer at HFIR. A total of 344 reflections were collected at 4 K and used for structural refinement. Magnetic symmetry analysis was carried out using the tools available at the Bilbao Crystallographic Server [26] and refined using the FULLPROF suite [27].

Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) measurements were performed on 5 mg of powder in Al pans under  $N_2$  atmosphere in a TA Instruments DSC 2500. A small fractured sample, weighing about 12 mg, was polished and aligned using Laue diffraction. This sample was mounted onto a quartz paddle sample holder for aligned magnetometry measurements in a magnetic property measurement system (Quantum Design MPMS3). Aligned resistivity measurements were carried out using the four-point probe method in a physical property measurement system (Quantum Design PPMS DynaCool).

First-principles density-functional theory (DFT) simulations were performed using the Vienna ab initio simulation package (VASP) [28,29]. The electron-ion interaction is described using the projector augmented-wave (PAW) scheme [30]. Exchange and correlation are described using the generalized-gradient approximation (GGA) by Perdew, Burke, and Ernzerhof (PBE) [31]. Single-particle Kohn-Sham states are expanded into a plane-wave basis with a cutoff energy of 600 eV. Monkhorst-Pack [32] (MP) k-point grids of  $2 \times 2 \times 6$  and  $4 \times 4 \times 12$  are used to integrate the Brillouin zone for cell relaxation and electronic band-structure calculations, respectively. Noncollinear magnetism and spin-orbit coupling is taken into account in all calculations [33]. Selfconsistent total-energy convergence was achieved to within 10<sup>-6</sup> eV and atomic positions were relaxed until Hellman-Feynman forces were smaller than 5 meV/Å.

## **III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### A. Structure refinement

The refined structure of Cu<sub>0.82</sub>Mn<sub>1.18</sub>As is shown in Fig. 2(a), with structural parameters from single-crystal x-ray diffraction (XRD) given in Tables I and II. Cu<sub>0.82</sub>Mn<sub>1.18</sub>As has a short lattice parameter  $c \approx 3.8$  Å, indicating that the unit cell is flat and is the same width as the Cu and Mn coordination polyhedra. Figure 2(a) shows the unit cell viewed down c, with all the atoms occupying either z = 0 or z =0.5. The compound forms in space group P6, and comprises three inequivalent square-pyramidal Mn and three inequivalent tetrahedral Cu, all coordinated by As. All metal sites have a multiplicity of 3 and have m point symmetry. The atomic positions are well described by the single-crystal XRD data, but the occupancies are less reliable due to the similar electron densities at each site. High-resolution synchrotron powder x-ray diffraction is shown in Fig. 3(a), to confirm that these samples can be made highly pure with excellent crystallinity.

The occupancies are better constrained by neutron scattering, where Mn and Cu have more contrast in their scattering lengths (-3.73 and 7.718 fm, respectively) [34]. Neutron powder diffraction data from WAND<sup>2</sup> were collected at 400 K, in the paramagnetic regime, with the refinement shown in Fig. 3(b). No evidence for site mixing or vacancies on the Mn or As sites was apparent. The best refinements were obtained by using the nominal Cu/Mn ratio and allowing Mn mixing on the Cu sites, with the final Cu occupancies of



FIG. 2. (a) A unit cell of  $Cu_{0.82}Mn_{1.18}As$  is shown with square pyramidal Mn in purple, tetrahedrally coordinated Cu in blue, and As in green. In (b), the refined magnetic structure is shown with moments on the Mn sites.

TABLE I. Structural parameters obtained from roomtemperature Mo  $K\alpha$  x-ray single-crystal refinement (full-matrix least squares on  $F^2$ ) with occupancies fixed from synchrotron x-ray and neutron corefinement.

Formula	$Cu_{0.82}Mn_{1.18}As$
Formula weight	191.88 g/mol
Crystal system	Hexagonal
Space group	$P\overline{\overline{6}}$
a = b	11.1418(3) Å
С	3.8311(2) Å
V, Z	411.87(3) Å <sup>3</sup> , 9
ρ	$6.962 \text{ g/cm}^3$
Absorption coefficient	$35.046 \text{ mm}^{-1}$
F(000)	777
$(\sin\theta/\lambda)_{\rm max}$	0.714
Reflections collected	6722
Observed $I > 2\sigma(I)$ reflections	953
R <sub>int</sub>	0.0682
Number of parameters	56
Goodness of fit on $F^2$	1.445
$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)], wR(F^2)$	0.0344, 0.0849

0.709(2), 0.914(3), and 0.846(2) for Cu sites 1–3, respectively. The final structural refinement data presented in Table II are a single-crystal XRD refinement with the occupancies locked to values obtained by corefinement to the 100-K synchrotron x-ray and 400-K neutron scattering data.

### **B.** Magnetic ordering

In light of the strong exchange coupling in transitionmetal arsenides that leads to high Curie and Néel temperatures in MnAs and Mn<sub>2</sub>As, it is surprising that few hexagonal arsenides have been shown to order magnetically near room temperature. The most well-known structure type is the  $P6_3/mmc$  NiAs type, of which MnAs is a member. NiAs itself is a Pauli paramagnet [35], while hexagonal CrNiAs has a Curie temperature of 190 K [36].

Powders of  $Cu_{0.82}Mn_{1.18}As$  were examined by DSC, with the heating and cooling traces shown in Fig. 4(a). There is a clear change in slope around 267 K, with a hysteresis of about



FIG. 3. Refinements of Cu<sub>0.82</sub>Mn<sub>1.18</sub>As to (a) synchrotron x-ray powder diffraction at 100 K at APS 11-BM ( $\lambda = 0.4128$  Å) and (b) neutron powder diffraction at 400 K on WAND<sup>2</sup> ( $\lambda = 1.487$  Å).

4 K. To determine the origin of this transition, aligned single crystals of Cu<sub>0.82</sub>Mn<sub>1.18</sub>As were examined via superconducting quantum interference device (SQUID) magnetometry, and the moment versus temperature is shown in Fig. 4(b). The maximum in the magnetometry data is around 275 K for zero-field-cooled (ZFC) and field-cooled (FC) data along the a and c axes for a 10 kOe applied field. There are not sufficient data above  $T_N$  to provide a satisfactory Curie-Weiss fit. The data along the c axis display a typical decrease upon cooling past  $T_N$ , while the data measured along the *a* axis show a slight rise and plateau around 100 K. There were no features in measurements of magnetic moment versus field to indicate spin-flop transitions or any hysteresis. The small plateau could arise from decreasing itineracy and a leveling off of the local moments on Mn sites, which would be consistent with the single-crystal neutron magnetic intensity remaining constant

TABLE II. Atomic parameters obtained from room-temperature X-ray single-crystal refinement of  $Cu_{0.82}Mn_{1.18}As$ . Occupancy values for Cu/Mn sites are co-refined to 100 K synchrotron and 400 K neutron powder diffraction data (see Fig. 3). Atomic displacement parameters  $U_{ij}$  are given in units of Å<sup>2</sup>.

Atom	Site	x	у	z	Occupancy	$U_{11}$	$U_{22}$	<i>U</i> <sub>33</sub>	$U_{12}$
Cu1/Mn1	3 <i>j</i>	0.2489(9)	0.0868(10)	0	0.709/0.291(2)	0.025(3)	0.023(4)	0.030(3)	0.014(2)
Cu2/Mn2	3 <i>j</i>	0.5894(9)	0.5043(5)	0	0.914/0.086(3)	0.012(3)	0.011(2)	0.015(2)	0.005(3)
Cu3/Mn3	3 <i>k</i>	0.4206(9)	0.5030(6)	0.5	0.846/0.154(2)	0.016(3)	0.012(3)	0.018(3)	0.009(2)
Mn4	3 <i>j</i>	0.1966(10)	0.4682(10)	0	1	0.016(4)	0.017(4)	0.009(3)	0.011(3)
Mn5	3 <i>k</i>	0.8051(10)	0.9422(7)	0.5	1	0.015(3)	0.017(2)	0.017(3)	0.009(3)
Mn6	3 <i>k</i>	0.8056(10)	0.5310(10)	0.5	1	0.009(3)	0.013(3)	0.011(3)	0.006(2)
As1	3 j	0.3310(6)	0.3354(6)	0	1	0.010(2)	0.008(3)	0.013(3)	0.0044(19)
As2	3 <i>k</i>	0.6754(6)	0.6721(6)	0.5	1	0.010(2)	0.013(3)	0.0073(14)	0.007(2)
As3	1a	0	0	0	1	0.011(2)	0.011(2)	0.007(4)	0.0054(12)
As4	1d	1/3	2/3	0.5	1	0.007(2)	0.007(2)	0.012(4)	0.0033(12)
As5	1 <i>e</i>	2/3	1/3	0	1	0.009(3)	0.009(3)	0.002(4)	0.0045(14)



FIG. 4. (a) DSC data show a clear kink in the heat flow at  $T_N \approx 270$  K, indicating a discontinuous change in heat capacity of the sample. Data on heating are reflected about the *x* axis. The same transition appears in (b) magnetic susceptibility measurements of an aligned single crystal, with the field axis along the [001] and [100] directions.

below 100 K. Figure 4(b) shows that for temperatures beyond 150 K, the susceptibility along c is larger than along a. This trend is consistent with in-plane moments in triangular antiferromagnets such as CsMnBr<sub>3</sub>, CsVCl<sub>3</sub>, Mn<sub>3</sub>Sn, etc. [37–40]. Below 150 K, the difference in the susceptibility along a and c is unclear. However, the in-plane Mn spin ordering was confirmed using neutron diffraction as shown below.

The magnetic ordering was probed first by variabletemperature neutron powder diffraction on the WAND<sup>2</sup> instrument, which showed changes in peak intensities across this boundary, but no new peaks, indicating likely k = 0 ordering. A full triple-axis data collection was performed on the HB-3A beamline at 4 K. The magnetic and nuclear structures were refined together in the  $P\overline{6}'$  magnetic space group. The intensity of the (020) peak can serve as an order parameter, and its temperature dependence is shown in Fig. 5(a). The (020) peak is an allowed nuclear reflection, so the intensity does not go to zero above  $T_N$ . The three inequivalent Mn sites are constrained to have equal magnetic moments, which are refined to  $3.02(8)\mu_B$ /atom. No improvement in the fit was observed when the moments were allowed to freely vary. The observed and calculated structure factors  $F_{hkl}^2$  are plotted in Fig. 5(b). The magnetic structure is shown in Fig. 2(b). No local Mn moment was stably refined on the Cu-majority sites, and Cu itself does not host local moments in arsenides [41–43]. It is possible that some local Mn moments exist on the minority Cu sites, but they do not appear to be ordered. The 120° spin structure differs from Mn<sub>3</sub>Sn. In Mn<sub>3</sub>Sn, the spin triangles are connected by their corners. We also do not observe the "inverse triangle" orthorhombic configuration seen in Mn<sub>3</sub>Sn [37]. There are three different types of  $120^{\circ}$ spin structures observed in our compound, although the spin directions in the *ab* plane could not be uniquely determined by unpolarized neutron diffraction. This compound could be



FIG. 5. Measured single-crystal neutron diffraction intensity (a) of the (020) peak of  $Cu_{0.82}Mn_{1.18}As$  shows a gradual increase upon cooling past  $T_N$  down to 4 K. The (020) peak is an allowed nuclear reflection and persists with constant intensity (~50) above  $T_N$ . The differences between observed and refined structure factors  $F_{hkl}^2$  at T = 4 K are shown in (b). The triangular model obtained from neutron refinement are shown as (+) and the DFT-derived model as (×).

written as containing  $Cu^+$  and  $Mn^{2+}$ , but as other transitionmetal arsenides, the local moment is reduced due to metallicity [14,44].

Four-point probe resistivity measurements along [001] show a mostly flat, weakly undulating trend versus temperature as shown in Fig. 6(a). The broad hump between 50 and



FIG. 6. (a) Resistivity of  $Cu_{0.82}Mn_{1.18}As$  with applied field *H* along [100] and current *I* along [001]. The resistivity is relatively flat across the temperature range, with a small kink at  $T_N = 270$  K. (b) Hall measurements of the sample with *H* along [100] and current along [001] show a decreasing trend followed by an increase at higher temperatures.



FIG. 7. Structure and magnetic configuration from DFT for (a) stoichiometric hexagonal CuMnAs and (b)  $Cu_{0.89}Mn_{1.11}As$ . Mn is shown in purple, Cu in blue, and As in green.

250 K could be attributed to competing mobilities and carrier concentrations of multiple excited states in a heavily doped semiconductor (as in P-doped Si) [45], or variations in the dominant carrier scatterers in a disordered metal (which we discuss subsequently to be more likely, given the computed band structure). The resistivity values are roughly 125 times higher at 5 K in Cu<sub>0.82</sub>Mn<sub>1.18</sub>As than Fe<sub>2</sub>As and about 380 times higher than tetragonal CuMnAs, both of which are metallic [46,47]. Application of a magnetic field of 10 kOe along [100] resulted in a negligible change in resistivity values, shown in Fig. 6(a). A slightly larger effect can be seen in the Hall effect measurements in Fig. 6(b). The Hall data magnify the hump around 150 K, and cross from negative (majority *n* type) to positive (*p* type) upon heating past 330 K. The material is *n* type at low temperatures but as temperature is increased, more carriers are excited and the higher mobility of holes leads to compensation and switching to *p*-type conduction 330 K. The lack of an anomaly in the total resistivity around the Hall crossover point indicates that the transport in Cu<sub>0.82</sub>Mn<sub>1.18</sub>As occurs via multiple bands, and is supported by the delicate (but not gapped) band structure around the Fermi energy that we discuss subsequently.

#### C. First-principles simulations

We performed first-principles density-functional theory (DFT) simulations to confirm the stability, cell geometry, and magnetic ordering of a fully occupied hexagonal model compound CuMnAs and off-stoichiometric Cu<sub>0.89</sub>Mn<sub>1.11</sub>As, with a single Mn on a Cu1 site (one of the nine sites substituted per cell). We find that the relaxed atomic geometries of hexagonal CuMnAs and Cu<sub>0.89</sub>Mn<sub>1.11</sub>As agree with neutron scattering results within 2%. The DFT data for the magnetic structures arrive at different lowest-energy orderings than the neutron refinement. The DFT-derived lowest-energy magnetic configurations of stoichiometric CuMnAs and substituted  $Cu_{0.89}Mn_{1.11}As$  are shown in Figs. 7(a) and 7(b), respectively. The stoichiometric result is antiferromagnetic, while the substituted site in Cu<sub>0.89</sub>Mn<sub>1.11</sub>As has a small uncompensated moment  $(-0.102a - 0.010b \mu_B)$ . The calculated neutron diffraction structure factors for the stoichiometric case are compared to the single-crystal neutron-refined values in Fig. 5(b). The two fits are similar, apart from the trio of peaks with  $F_{\rm obs}^2 \approx 100$ , which significantly degrade the fit versus the neutron result. The neutron refinement outperforms the DFT fit with  $R_{F^2} = 7.77$  and  $R_{F^2w} = 17.1$  vs  $R_{F^2} = 7.98$  and  $R_{F^2w} = 23.0$ , respectively, where smaller numbers indicate a better fit. A small uncompensated moment observed in the

TABLE III. Energy differences (meV/atom) between different constraints in DFT (see text), and lattice parameters (Å, deg) from all-relaxed calculations of stoichiometric hexagonal CuMnAs and Cu<sub>0.89</sub>Mn<sub>1.11</sub>As. All phases have  $\gamma = 120^{\circ}$ .

System	$E_{\rm fix} - E_{\rm mag}$	$E_{\rm fix} - E_{\rm all}$	а	b	с
CuMnAs	9.92	15.30	11.050	11.050	3.802
Cu <sub>0.89</sub> Mn <sub>1.11</sub> As	6.45	14.93	11.053	11.043	3.776

Mn-substituted DFT model is an unavoidable artifact of the cell choice, which contains one "extra" Mn atom to reflect the off-stoichiometry of  $Cu_{0.82}Mn_{1.18}As$ .

Magnetic ground states in strongly correlated *d*-electron systems are often challenging to predict using DFT, so it is instructive to quantitatively evaluate the proximity of the neutron-refined result to the DFT energy minimum, and likewise the predicted neutron intensities of the DFT model. To better understand the energetics of this difference between theory and experiment, we compare total energies for three different situations: First, chemical and magnetic structures are constrained to the neutron scattering result ( $E_{\text{fix}}$  in Table III). Second, the ground-state magnetic structure is computed from DFT while the atomic geometries are constrained to the neutron scattering data ( $E_{mag}$  in Table III). Finally, these total energies are compared to the fully relaxed DFT result ( $E_{all}$  in Table III). These small energy changes, 15.30 and 14.93 meV/atom for CuMnAs and  $Cu_{0.89}Mn_{1.11}As$ , respectively, are typical of energy differences between various magnetic structures for similar systems [48].

The electronic band structure and density of states of stoichiometric hexagonal CuMnAs and Cu<sub>0.89</sub>Mn<sub>1.11</sub>As in Fig. 8 show that both hexagonal models are metallic. Both electronic structures exhibit very small densities of states near the Fermi energy, similar to that described by DFT for tetragonal CuMnAs [49]. Tetragonal CuMnAs shows obvious metallic resistivity ( $d\rho/dT > 0$ ) [47]. The CuMnAs compounds are clearly on the cusp of semiconducting/metallic behavior, and share similarities to Fe<sub>2</sub>As, which has a much greater density of states at the Fermi level and does show  $d\rho/dt > 0$ , but the reported values of resistivity values are much higher than that of tetragonal CuMnAs [46,50].

Our DFT calculations suggest that  $Cu_{0.89}Mn_{1.11}As$  is metallic. However, transport measurements indicate that the resistivity is high, and  $d\rho/dT < 0$  for most T. The negative slope that is observed at low and high temperatures is not exponential as is expected in highly doped semiconductors [45]. The seeming discrepancy between resistivity and the computed band structure can be resolved by considering the high amount of substitutional disorder in these compounds. Metals often exhibit  $d\rho/dT < 0$  behavior when a large amount of configurational disorder is present [51], and the negative temperature dependence is in fact correlated with high absolute values of resistivity [52]. In our material, carriers must scatter due to pervasive disorder due to Mn site mixing, while magnon scattering may also contribute strongly, but the overall resistivity is hardly affected upon cooling past  $T_N$ .



FIG. 8. Electronic band structure of (a) stoichiometric hexagonal CuMnAs (blue) and (b) Cu<sub>0.89</sub>Mn<sub>1.11</sub>As (red). Both densities of states (DOS, in units of states per Å<sup>3</sup> and per eV per spin), computed using DFT, are shown in (c). The highest-occupied energies are set as E = 0 eV.

### **IV. CONCLUSIONS**

We report the crystal structure of a noncentrosymmetric  $P\overline{6}'$  phase Cu<sub>0.82</sub>Mn<sub>1.18</sub>As in the Cu-Mn-As system. This compound can be made phase pure in single-crystal form. Triangular antiferromagnetic ordering appears upon cooling below 270 K and is markedly distinct from the orthorhombic and tetragonal CuMnAs phases, both of which are stabilized by different Cu/Mn content and are centrosymmetric in their paramagnetic states. DFT calculations confirm the stability of the magnetic structure refined by single-crystal neutron diffraction. The triangular AF ordering is in plane and does not break degeneracy of the *a* and *b* axes. As other copper manganese arsenides, hexagonal Cu<sub>0.82</sub>Mn<sub>1.18</sub>As is on the cusp of semiconducting/metallic behavior and further investigation of the carrier scattering mechanisms in this class of materials is warranted.

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